

***“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul  
And sings the tune without the words and never stops at all ...”***

Jorge Sosa – History of Guatemalan War

My name is Jorge Sosa. I am in jail, ***falsely accused*** of war crimes that ***I did not commit***. I need some help. Here is my story / history.

I was arrested on January 18, 2011 in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, where I have operated a Martial Arts School with my family for many years. My parents, my sisters, and my children have all been Canadian citizens since 1992.

I am also a citizen of the United States of America, since September 2008. I have studied Martial Arts in New York, Florida, and southern California. The United States wants to have me extradited back to the U.S. because they *allege* that I lied about my Army status on my US Citizenship application. **I did not lie – I have proof!!!** Once they extradite me back to the US, they want to send me to Guatemala to face *alleged* war crimes that **I did not commit!!** I am completely innocent and I need someone to represent me and tell my history. ***Please help me!!*** What follows is relevant background information:

My family began to lived from Guatemala in 1984 when my brother and sister left the country. In February, 1985, my parents left Guatemala and then I fled with my family on May 10, 1985. Then in 1992, another one of my sisters left from Guatemala, leaving her family behind.

My whole family and I have had the bitter experience of living with the “after-effects” of a civil war – a war that began in 1960 when I was only five years old and didn’t end until 1996. **There were 36 years of pain and suffering for the whole country.** The excuse for this war: there were political and economical interests from the left-wing and the right-wing sides. The result of this war: **280,000 people have died because of this fight without any sense.**

I was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on March 7, 1958. Since I was 3 years old, I started to train in Japanese traditional Martial Arts – a training to educate mind, body and spirit. At a very young age, my Martial Arts training (and the supporting principles) taught me to have respect for all human beings. I have kept and maintain those principles to this day. When I was 6 years old, my parents introduced me to Catholic School. I learned and studied about God and His wonderful message!!

On January 2, 1976, at the age of 17 years old, I joined the military school known as “Escuela Politecnica.” At the military school I studied civil and military subjects. I graduated as an army Lieutenant on September 1, 1979. At the time of my graduation from military school, Guatemala was living in amongst “organized violence,” with very severe outcomes for the Guatemalan people.

Speaking from the bottom of my heart and with all my honesty and sincerity, I will be neutral regarding my opinion of what happened in the Guatemalan war: *no group had a logical reason for this violent time*. Many foreigners and local people saw and/or heard only one side of what was happening ... but, *there was another reality*.

Definitely, there was (and still is) a lot of poverty in Guatemala. During war time, Guatemala had a population of 9 million people living there. Today, Guatemala has a population of 14 million living in the country. The guerrilla forces groups used “Guatemalan poverty” as flag (reason) to fight against the government. There were terrorists causing chaos and terror doing such things as: kidnapping; blowing up bridges and electrical power plants; burning gas stations, farms, police stations; putting several war tax checks stops; damaging radio and TV programs; and, killing foreign government representatives and government-Political-army people and their families. Those were the main targets of these groups. These terrorists were supported by the Soviet Union, Cuba, the Sandinista guerrilla forces from Nicaragua, as well as the Farabundo Marti Guerrillas from el Salvador.

On the other hand, Guatemala has been involved by a political and economical conflict since 1960. The country has been influenced and controlled by the United States government, who managed both the right-wing groups and the Guatemalan government for its own benefit and purposes. During that kind of manipulation, there were many human mistakes made by those groups that increased the war.

The far right-wing used its own version of justice by creating violence without measure and many people were killed unnecessarily because of their way of thinking or their political participation.

Neither one group (left-wing) nor the other (right-wing) had reason for this war that only brought a difficult economical situation for the country. The right-wing governments after the groups did not solve the racial, political, and economical problems in the country. The corruption was – and has been – the big dilemma in Guatemala.

The last government (2008-2011) from the far left-wing has followed the same way and its “Guatemalan poverty flag” was forgotten!! Today, Guatemala, lives in a greater war: *the narco war / the drug war*, which has brought more dead people than the previous war!! Several groups in the government have helped the drug dealers plus the Guatemalan cartels and the Mexican cartels infiltration are the groups leading this way. They are supported by the “Maras” (young gang groups) who control the trafficking of drugs.

During my time as an army officer, I was trained to protect the sovereignty of the country, in accordance with the 5th Chapter of the Guatemalan constitution. My duty, and wish, was to defend my country as a patriot, be aware of peace and freedom for the Guatemala citizens. I belonged to a government institution, the army, so I had to follow orders and obey my superiors.

I was part of the Young Officers from the Guatemala Army. I graduated at 21 years old. We had in our minds and hearts to protect our country from the armed violence at that time. I was an army officer from 1979 to 1985. I lived a war manipulated by several groups. I was well-known by all army members because of my Martial Arts skills and the nickname I used in war.

I was chosen to become enlisted at the Center for Military Studies known as “CEM”. It has its headquarters close to the Mariscal Zavala Military Brigada at Capital City. I was chosen to be an instructor for the training and special operations course “Kaibil”. This course was provided in the area known as “La Polvora” (gunpowder), which is 12 kilometers from Melchor de Mencos city. This group of instructors and sub-instructors get their orders directly from the Director of the Center for Military Studies.

Our mission was to provide counter-insurgency training to selected military personnel though a physical test. This course trained regular troops to become more combat effective against the guerrilla forces. I was selected as a self-defense instructor. The “Kaibil School” (as it is referred to by all military members), had its own third-class airport, which was located at the Melchor de Mencos city. The Kaibil School always kept the airport independent from other military bases located in the Petén province (such as the Flores Airforce and the Military Zone #23 with its headquarters in Poptún).

The Military Zone #23 had all the responsibility of all military operations in the Petén province. There was a Colonel in Command of that Zone and its supporting officers: an intelligence officer (S-2), an operations officer (S-3), a personnel officer (S-1), a logistics officer (S-4), and a civil matters officer (S-5). The Military Zone #23 had military detachments in the 12 municipalities of the Petén province and, as a consequence, had total control of the Petén province at the military level.

I am actually being accused in the massacre of “Las Dos Erres” in Petén province. **I was not in “Las Dos Erres”** (which belonged to the “La Libertad” municipality). We worked training selected troops in “**La Polvora**”. **We were not combative troops**. We were 7 instructors (officers) and 10 sub-instructors (sergeants) for the special operations course known as “Kaibil”. At that time, there was not a special command of big number of special forces like they have in other countries (ie: the Green Berets and Navy Seals in the US). **We got orders from “CEM” only.**

Outlined below is specific information about that period of time:

1. On October 22, 1982, there were 21 military soldiers killed in the area of the Libertad municipality. **These soldiers belonged to the Military Zone #23 – not to the Kaibil School.** The guerrilla forces stole their guns, equipment, and clothing.
2. The “witnesses” have already declared that an army officer with the Rank of First Lieutenant (Canadian equivalent), as the leader of the massacre in “Las Dos Erres”. This officer **NEVER** belonged to the Kaibil School nor was a member of the Kaibil instructors. During judicial proceedings, **this military officer, himself, declared that**

**he did not know the other Kaibil School member** that was in court (Guatemala newspaper “*Prensa Latina*” – August 19, 2011).

3. The “witnesses“ that have been identified by the Guatemala newspaper **NEVER belonged to the team of instructors and sub-instructors of the Kaibil School. I have no idea what Military Zone they belonged to!!!**
4. The **Kaibil School was 122.22 kilometers from the municipality of la “Libertad” where the “Las Dos Erres” town was** (according to newspaper reports), while the **Military Zone #23 detachments were closer to that municipality**. The distances below are provided for your reference:

San Benito	= 29.4 kms	San Francisco	= 30.22 kms
Sayaxché	= 32.9 kms	Santa Ana	= 33.2 kms
Flores	= 37.39 kms	San José	= 42.9 kms
San Andrés	= 46.2 kms	Poptún	= 90.22 kms
Dolores	= 96.9 kms	San Luis	= 138 kms

5. It is also **a possibility that the guerrilla forces known as “FAR” (rebel armed forces) could have committed this massacre**. “FAR” had mobile groups that were constantly changing positions (which is part of all guerrilla forces group tactics). “FAR” knows their operations area perfectly (in this case, the Petén province). This group was the oldest guerrilla group operating in that area.
6. **I have evidence** that I was enlisted at the Center for Military Studies during that time and my job position was instructor of the special operation course “Kaibil”.
7. According to the newspaper articles and court declarations in Guatemala, **there is no “DNA” evidence** in la “Las Dos Erres” town in la Libertad, Petén, Guatemala.

Starting in the month of October ,1982, I was in-charge of a civil action program for the area of **Melchor de Mencos** and surrounding towns. We had contact with the people of Melchor de Mencos and we had a good friendship with them because of the airport we had there.

I met with the town’s Mayor, military commissioners, and teachers from the whole area. We started a team – all helping each other. I went to the Capital City and had interviews with some Guatemalan Ministers and I was able to secure help for the citizens of Melchor de Mencos people: 16 mobile libraries for the schools, educational materials (such as blackboards, chalk, books, pens, pencils, crayons), and sporting goods such as footballs, basketballs and volleyballs.

We also helped in the construction of the “Salsipuedes“ town school. I sponsored a basketball team named “Jimbas”. We organized football and basketball games with people in Melchor de Mencos. We organized these activities in the months of October, November, December of 1982 and January, February, and March of 1983.

After this, we kept in close contact and maintained our friendship with the teachers and Melchor de Mencos authorities.

We provided available supports to the Melchor de Mencos community and surrounding towns. Even when a member of the Melchor de Mencos community needed to travel by plane to Capital City, we included them in our airplanes / flights to go there.

The Guatemalan war has never made logical sense and I am deeply saddened by the many people who died in that war without sense. The guerrilla force has only incriminated the army for what happened in the war. However, people do not completely open their eyes to remember all the terror that the guerrilla forces caused in the country. To my Guatemalan brothers and sisters: it will be impossible to know the whole truth of what happened in the war in our beautiful country. It is the moment to remember the words of Jesus Christ and reconcile with each other ... not to throw stones but to forgive **everybody** who participated in this war ... a war that only brought pain, suffering, revenge, rage (Ira) and resentment. It is time to extend the olive branch in peace and love as Jesus Christ told us and He is the testimony of truth.

I escaped from Guatemala on **May 10, 1985**. **I requested political asylum in the United States on June 12, 1985, (and then later in Canada).** Both governments knew of my Guatemala military membership and my action in war. The United States knew perfectly well that I was a Guatemalan army officer. In July, 1984, I travelled with Guatemalan army officers to Miami, Florida, to enjoy a weeks vacation. We entered the Miami Airport customs with our **official military passports** from Guatemala.

When I applied for political asylum in the United States on June 12, 1985, I **clearly disclosed my Guatemalan military membership and action in combat** to the United States government at that time.

I was also a witness for a Guatemalan person in the United States Immigration court in San Francisco, California, **between 1986 and 1987, and made a declaration at that time that I was an ex-army officer in the Guatemalan war.**

When I submitted my **American Citizenship Application on April 18, 2007**, I remarked on question # 27 that I had applied for political asylum in the United States.

Finally, I applied for political asylum at the Canadian Consulate in San Francisco, California, letting them know of my Guatemala military membership and my actions in war. **I entered Canada on May 12, 1988.**

**I desperately need people to know that I have NOT committed a crime nor do I have a criminal mind.** Even though I am completely innocent of the allegations made against me, it is also very important to point out that I am legally protected by the "Law Decree 8-86" from the Guatemala government. This Decree provides

**general amnesty to everybody involved for the time period of March 23, 1982, up to and including January 14, 1986.**

I have lived in North America for around 25 years and have absolutely no criminal record. I have been dedicated to helping immigrants that come to North America. In our Martial Arts traditional teachings, **we teach respect and support for our neighbours; peace and love between all human beings; and to avoid any fights or confrontations without sense.** Our Martial Arts teaches us to have **5 ethical rules:**

- 1. Be moderate and courteous**
- 2. Be righteous and have a strong sense of justice**
- 3. Be modest in my words and actions**
- 4. Respect others**
- 5. Karatedo is a lifetime study.**

**To the People of Guatemala:**

Please open your eyes and your ears. **The only ones directly responsible for the war in Guatemala were the United States and the Soviet Union.** They instigated the hatred and war between the Guatemalan brothers:

- 1. Do not forget that the United States planned and supported the coup against President Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán through the influence of the “United Fruit Company”, a US company.** This company had 555,000 acres of Guatemalan land under its control. This company contacted the United States Senate and the Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.). in order to over-throw (kick out) President Arbenz Guzmán. From that time forward, Guatemala started a nightmare that was manipulated by the United States, the Guatemalan government, and the war itself.
- 2. The same United States government later acknowledged the US intervention in Guatemala when President Bill Clinton apologized to the Guatemalan people on March 10, 1999.** Now, the same United States government wants to wash its hands of what happened in Guatemala!!!! This is no different than the story in the Holy Bible regarding Poncius Pilate!
- 3. The Soviet Union, which no longer exists, was in charge of sending weapons** left by the United States and France in the Vietnam war. Likewise, **Cuba also sent weapons to Guatemala** that it got from Angola in Africa.

The **Guatemalan army recovered weapons** such as M-16, Fal (Belgium), G-3 (Germany), and the famous Chinese Truncheon (Baston Chino). **It was corroborated by the registration numbers of those weapons,** such weapons pass through guerrilla groups from Nicaragua (The Sandinista front) and El Salvador (Farabundo Marti front). Cuba also supported the ideological and military training of the Guatemalan guerrillas in Cuba.

There was everything in the vineyard of the Lord. **It is time to recognize that the Guatemalan people were manipulated by those two countries and 280,000 people paid for the price of this war with their lives!!!**

From the bottom of my heart I wish the eternal peace and reconciliation of all “Chapines” (nickname for Guatemalan people). Let me remind you that our Master Jesus Christ said:

***“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
all your soul, and your mind” ... and to  
“love your neighbor as yourself”.***

Jorge Sosa  
Calgary, Alberta